Nation

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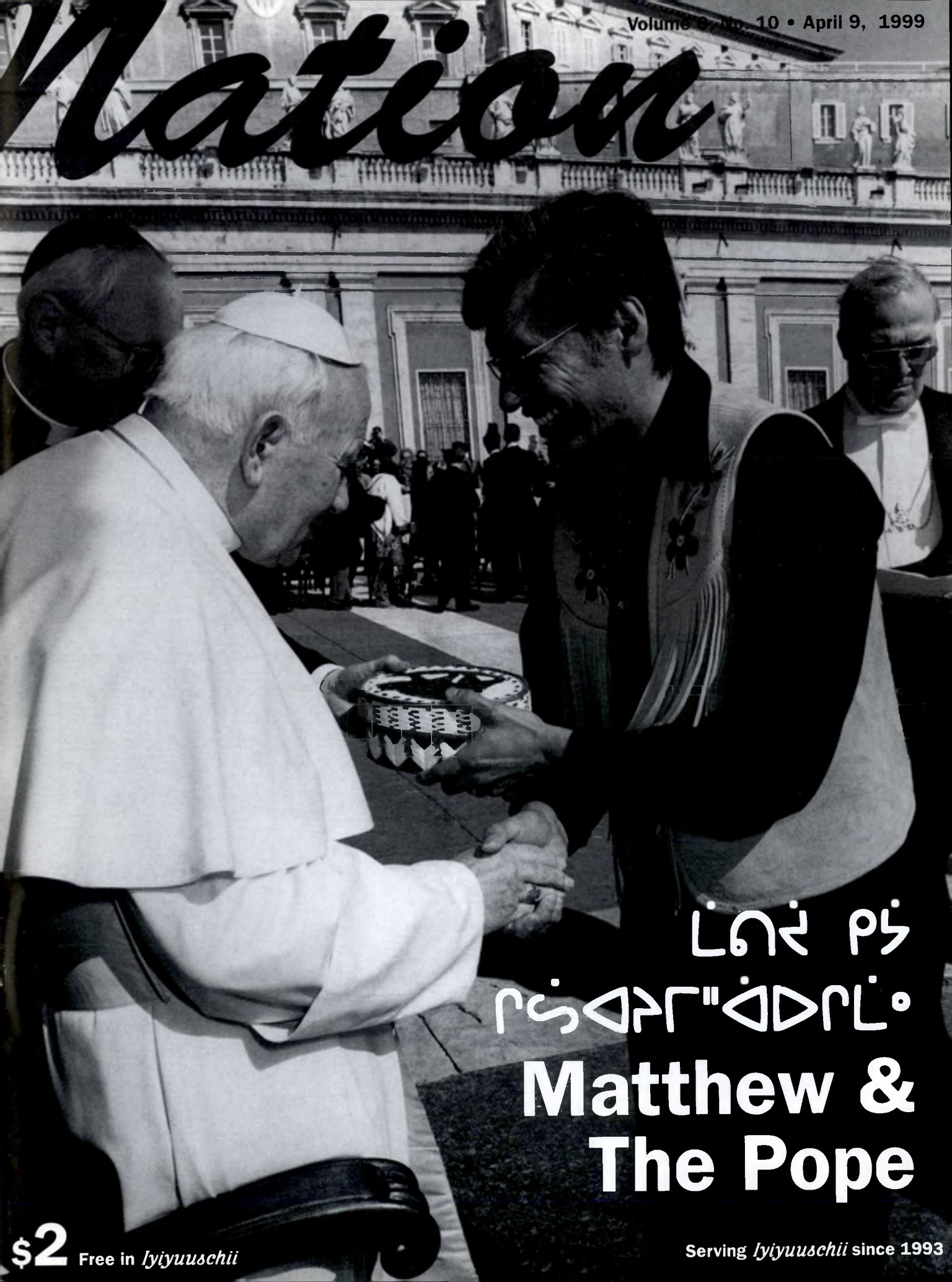

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How Crees helped Quebec pay off its deficit

Got a great idea. Let's all just stop whining about Quebec's desire or apparent inability to live up to its obligations and duties under the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement.

Instead of taking them to court to get them to live up to those obligations, as for example outlined under the JBNQA and the recently suspended Memorandum of Understanding, let's do something more conducive to making them a reality!

The idea is simple. Let's take them to court and directly link the money owed to the Crees to the dams. Certainly it can not be denied the Quebec government and Hydro-Quebec received full benefit from the JBNQA deal.

Each year Hydro-Quebec announces how much "profits" it has made.

This is the prime fallacy. In reality these are not profits! In return for allowing the La Grande hydro-electric complex we were supposed to get something. In fact, under the JBNQA very detailed sets of legal obligations on the parts of Canada, Quebec and Hydro-Quebec were defined.

Not all of the conditions and obligations of the deal have been fulfilled - except on the part of the Crees. We had the land drowned, our environments changed and affected, we experienced the mercury poisoning of a quarter of our traditional food supply, underwent culture shock, etc.

Meanwhile, in the past three years Hydro-Quebec has reported profits of $520 million (1996), $786 million (1997) and $679 million (1998). (They claim they would have made $950 million last year without the ice storm and warm weather). Hydro-Quebec received gross revenues of $814 million in 1998 from electricity sales to the U.S. made through a dedicated line that originates in the Cree territory.

Every year Hydro-Quebec hands over a share of those profits to its one shareholder... the Quebec government!

Since Quebec can't, won't, isn't able to or perhaps capable of fulfilling its obligations to the Crees as defined and agreed to under the JBNQA, then the Crees should just stop the Hydro-Quebec "profit" money in mid-transfer to Quebec, fund the obligations ourselves and give the left-over monies to Quebec!

Of course this would necessitate court actions but the evidence is clear when it comes to proving that Quebec is not living up to its obligations. The zero-deficit budget the PQ government is so proud of has not only been at the expense of health and social services but is in fact built practically on the backs of Crees. It is time to stop this once and for all.

The strangest part to the twisted story of Quebec's suspension of funding to the Crees came on March 23. In the National Assembly, two ministers spoke out on this subject. One, the Quebec Health Minister, said his department does not resort to that type of blackmail and they are still negotiating with the Crees. Then Native Affairs Minister Guy Chevrette says the suspension of negotiations between the Crees and his Secretariat involves the forests only.

One must think that Chevrette and former federal Solicitor-General Andy Scott flew on the same plane together. Chevrette sent a letter to the Grand Chief in which he plainly stated that the 1995 Memorandum of Understanding negotiations (which are tied to dams not forests) are suspended.

Does this mean Quebec has realized that its suspension of the MOU was unwise? One can only hope so.

As they say, fool me once, shame on you - fool me twice, shame on me. I think the days that Crees are played for fools are long past!

Kudos to those all around for standing up for basic human rights and making sure that they apply to the Crees as well.

By William Nicholls

Contents

NEWS

5 **Nurses to quit?**
Seek better wages, conditions

5 **Pope greets Matthew**
Vatican reception

7 **RCMP arms build-up**
Mounties fear Native unrest

7 **Briefs** ❖ Poor kids, Lac Rocher a bust

RESISTANCE

10 **The excluded**
Updates: Mexico, Guatemala

STORY

15 **Starvation tragedy**
Story by David Cheezo

HOCKEY

23 **Abitibi champs!**
Bears win regional tourney

CLASSIFIEDS

24 **Classy classifieds**
You wrote em, we got em

THE COVER

Matthew greeted by His Holiness in Rome

Cover Design: Sylvia Tennisco

rezNotes

by Ndiamon & Rorr

Aaaaaa. Shpring. The time when a young Cree's fancy turns south to the approaching flock. Hopefully, flocks.

There have always been stories, since most people still living now can remember, of the continually dwindling waves of birds come spring. My parents, and probably yours too, remember a time when birds, geese, wavies filled the skies. When a rising flock, startled by a passing canoe, could block out the sun's rays and their cries could send young children cowering into their mother's arms.

Those days are gone and there's not a damn thing we can do about. Forgive the cynicism.

So what do you do? You've been sitting in your blind all day and you haven't seen anything flying except for crows, eagles and those strange water beetles who dive into ponds and disappear forever. What do you do to pass the time? Before you get angry and leave the blind cursing your luck here's a few things to do while waiting for the geese to show up.

-Bring lots of "tobacco." d:)

-Dig around in your hunting buddy's lunch bag while he's napping and eat all his snacks.

-Send your buddy Jim to take a crap in the bush cause they always seem to come when he's away from the blind.

-Paint your buddy's face with charcoal from the lunch fire while he's sleeping and let him walk around like that for the rest of the day. Good for laughs the whole day.

-Take your buddy's shotgun apart.

-Call geese even when they're not flying just to watch the guy sleeping leap up and take aim in one move.

-For the hunters who use artificial goose calls, stuff feathers in his call and watch the feathers fly.

-Pour out his thermos full of coffee and exchange with swamp water and add milk and sugar liberally.

-Take a feather and tickle his nostrils and laugh at his funny expression.

-If you happen to have some tape with you place it on the shades he's wearing.

-Unload his gun, leaving one shell in and watch him go for his next shot. Laugh in his face.

-Wait for your friend to bend over to pick something up. When he does, tear a piece of canvas just as he's bending over so it sounds like his pants are ripping and sit back and enjoy the laughter. Be sure to tear the canvas with a long rriiiip.

-Take his blind apart and leave him exposed if he's a heavy sleeper.

-Fill your buddy's packsack with rocks for the walk home. Wait for his reaction, "Oooowah!" when he discovers why his pack is so heavy.

-While he's roasting his hotdog wiener distract him by pointing out that giant squirrel, grab the wiener and take a bite before he turns around. This has happened to Roger courtesy of his big brother, the great hunter Sonny Orr.

-Make up your own hunting songs. Here's an example from Chisasibi hunter Jim, sung to the tune of Bill Hailey's "Rock Around the Clock":

One flock

two flocks

three flocks

Four

Five flocks

six flocks

maybe more

We're gonna blast, blast, blastajaz

We're gonna blast, blast, blast, gonna blastajaz

Gonna blast, gonna blast, gonna blast 'em all day long

It's one of those great sing-a-longs that you never tire of.

Here's another, sung to the tune of The Troggs' "Wild Thing":

Swamp thing

you make my guns sing

(repeat ad nauseum)

-Create your own song using the hits of the day for inspiration. Send in your creations. Who knows, they might become classics just like Flock Around the Clock and Swamp Thing.

These and others you may think of can get tiresome so if you really want to thrill your hunting friends, charter a plane to the pond and parachute right into your blind dressed to kill in full camouflage gear and turn the whole day's hunt into a military operation, why don't you.

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NURSES CONSIDER LAST-MINUTE OFFER

Almost all the nurses in the nine Cree communities were on the verge of quitting their jobs because they say the Quebec government has ignored their poor work conditions for years.

Grand Chief Matthew Coon Come asked the federal government to step in with military medical units if nurses carried out their threat.

"We are very tired," said Suzanne Roselle, president of the 65-member James Bay Northern Nurses Union. "It's the same situation in all the communities. The government is not negotiating with us. We said, enough is enough."

Of the 65, 50 to 55 said they would quit their jobs, according to reports. The nurses wanted a 20-per-cent salary increase, an extra 25 per cent northern allowance, better accommodations (including 20 new apartments just in Chisasibi) and more holidays.

Roselle said the government stopped negotiations with the nurses two weeks ago without explanation.

Bill Namagoose, executive director of the Grand Council of the Crees, told reporters that Quebec is punishing the Crees because of the Cree forestry lawsuit, filed last summer. Quebec has already suspended negotiations on funding for community projects because of the lawsuit.

Nurses in the Inuit communities joined James Bay nurses in making the same threat.

The nurses threatened to quit on March 29, but extended their deadline for two days. On March 30, they called a "study day," in which they dealt only with emergency cases and administrative work, said James Bobbish, executive director of the Cree Health Board.

Quebec made a last-minute offer on April 1 that had nurses optimistic about a resolution to the crisis. Nurses were going into a telephone conference to discuss the offer as we went to press.

Roselle, a nurse in the Whapmagoostui clinic, wouldn't give any details beyond saying, "It's very good news. After 3:30 p.m. everything will change."

Bobbish said the nurse enjoy broad Cree support: "The Grand Council, Health Board and band councils recognize their situation. We would like to see things better for the nurses."

Bobbish said the nurses are overworked and face poor work conditions. This makes it harder to attract nurses to the North at a time when there is already a high demand for nurses in the South. He estimated the health board has a shortfall of 19 nurses.

The same problems are felt across the entire health board - for example with community social workers, Bobbish said.

Bobbish said the Defense Ministry hasn't responded to the Cree request for emergency medical assistance should the nurses leave. The Red Cross and Moose Factory Hospital were also contacted, but they said they couldn't provide any emergency help.

The health minister's spokeswoman, Nicole Bastien, couldn't be reached.

by Alex Roslin

CREES SEE THE POPE

The last time the Crees went to see the Pope it was back in 1983 and then Grand Chief Billy Diamond caused quite a stir.

Canadian diplomats were running around trying to stop the visit because the Pope of the Catholic Church only met with heads of state and this implied that the Crees were seen as a state unto themselves and distinct from Canada.

In contrast, this latest visit 16 years later didn't see the same types of actions by the Canadian government. It was just the opposite with a warm reception at the Canadian Embassy with the Deputy Ambassador hosting a gala over five hours long.

The message Grand Chief Matthew Coon Come carried on behalf of the Crees, though, was not one that the Canadian government liked.

Coon Come asked the Pope to once again add his voice to support Cree efforts in the United Nations to set human-rights standards for the protection of rights of the world's indigenous peoples.

Coon Come asked the Pope to question Canada's politicians about the homeless and the urgent need for shelter for Aboriginal peoples in Canada. The Grand Chief cited this as a problem that leads people to commit desperate acts. This is a problem that Canada refuses to address, he said.

In his address before the Pope, Coon Come said even though Canada is a G-7 country and one of the most wealthy in the world, First Nations do not benefit.

"Although we are the original owners of the land, the Aboriginal peoples of Canada are now the poorest part of society," he said.

The United Nations on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights has called on Canada to "take concrete and urgent steps to ensure respect for Aboriginal economic land and resource based rights to achieve sustainable Aboriginal economies and cultures" - a fact Coon Come pointed out to the Pontiff.

He ended the visit praising the Pope for his past work on behalf of all peoples. Coon Come said the Pope has "called upon the world to correct past wrongs against our peoples through actions taken today," by meeting with the Crees.

-BY WILLIAM NICHOLLS

Time for a change?

Letter to *The Nation*:

After reading the article on Waskaganish's "deficiency level" (March 12, 1999), you cannot imagine what was running through my head. I cannot understand why an organization such as the Waskaganish First Nation could be so uncaring and selfish as to jeopardize the well-being of their people and community.

I feel as a concerned human being and resident that steps should be taken to correct all mistakes of employees, council and chief.

I understand that the chief has been through a major change and has worked through his problems, and I know deep down that he will do what is right.

Certain people feel it's time for a new chief and council if we are to be a well community again. We must start anew.

On another note I feel that all employees, chief and council have been overpaid for work that has not come through. I for one would like to see a chief and council that work for their people and future generations.

How a community can be so blind and be so intimidated leaves me baffled. People need to be more aware of what is important to our community's well-being and to the future generation.

From a concerned citizen in Waskaganish

Wonderful, just wonderful

Letter to *The Nation*:

Just a note to say that I was browsing the pages of your magazine, The Nation... Found it interesting. In particular the "Rez Notes." The writing is wonderful. I am not Indian (as you may have guessed), but I'm looking to obtain information on the Cree Nation, in particular information on the use of body art. Can anyone help? Thanks.

Diana Mercorios < dfmbah@usa.net >

15 accidents in one year

Letter to *The Nation*:

I am a student at Sabtuan Continuing Education in Waskaganish. For the past few years there have been too many accidents on the highways leading into the Cree communities. And some of the accidents have been caused by people driving while under the influence of alcohol or drugs. Sometimes passengers don't want to wear their seat belts, even though seat belts have been proven to save lives. And many drivers are still driving over the speed limit. They are not looking at what the limit is saying.

A couple of years ago, my husband went to a hockey tournament in Chisasibi in the winter-time. And they had an accident on the highway because their driver was over the speed limit and there was a very bad blizzard. The van flipped once and landed on the deep snow beside the road. Some of the passengers did not wear their seat belts. They came flying out of the van and landed in the deep snow. They were very lucky no one got really hurt. This is an example of the accidents which are happening in the Cree communities. According to Jim Hester, the chief of police in Waskaganish, there have

continued on page 21

Nation

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RCMP says Natives armed to the teeth

So what are you hunting with this year? According to an internal RCMP document Southam News obtained under the Access to Information Act, Native "militants" may be using more than the usual hunting rifles.

A brief put out by the RCMP's Criminal Intelligence Directorate warns the summer of 1998 "has seen the highest number of warning indicators and incidents of unrest since 1995."

Expect an upswing in Aboriginal "militant action" to pick up in "April of 1999." Police may be facing assault rifles capable of piercing body armor and light armoured vehicles, medium and heavy machine guns, construction explosives, grenades and light anti-tank weapons.

Compiling this list of potential weapons in the hands of Aboriginal "militants" was the result of nine years of seizures and observations, according to Sergeant André Guertin, an RCMP spokesman.

Guertin stressed the report was not meant to reflect Native people as a whole. "This is a very, very small percentage of Natives," he said. He also said the report is an in-house report that looked at what potential problems could arise from militant Natives if they take "illegal actions."

The brief says the success of blockades by First Nations like the Listuguj in 1998 reinforced the notion that violence or the threat of violence works.

The brief seems critical of government responses. "In an effort to avoid a repeat of an Oka-type conflict," it says, "governments have negotiated with militants while at the same time claiming not to give in to blackmail and terrorism." It also acknowledges law-enforcement agencies are hesitant in "enforcing the law" when "faced with overtly illegal activity."

Guetrin said the role of the police is to return a situation to normalcy. "Police are in a hard position from time to time. It's not easy to deal with this type of situation when there are long unresolved issues."

The brief says unresolved grievances are part of the reason this year will see more militant actions by First Nations across Canada. Other factors are the success of last year's actions, recent court decisions and internal community conflicts. This could result in volatile situations and there is a high probability these situations will involve violence or the threat of violence.

The report says the RCMP is in the process of acquiring vehicles that would protect officers from the weapons Aboriginal militants may have. Guertin said the vehicles will not be used only against the Aboriginal population, but would be "used from coast to coast in fulfilling the duties and obligations of the RCMP."

An official of the Grand Council of the Crees spoke off-the-record, saying this seemed like an attempt to dehumanize Native peoples and make them look like terrorists. "The information is exaggerated and casts the legitimate political, cultural and social aspirations of Native people in a negative light. For the record the Crees have never used violence or the threat of violence to achieve their aims.

"We have used the legitimate methods such as the courts of law and we deplore the government actions in this case."

by Will Nicholls

Donations pour in

A journey through the heart of Eeyou Istchee has achieved its goals and the walk isn't even over yet.

Generous Crees and entities have contributed $237,201.90 as of March 23 towards purchasing a hemo-dialysis machine. The hemo-dialysis machine would be used to help residents in the North to clean their blood. Patients currently have to go to Montreal, Val d'Or or Chisasibi for these health services creating extra hardships for their families.

The walkers started from Whapmagoostui and are expected to finish their long journey on April 9 in Mistissini. The number of walkers is up to 46 from the original 16. Look for a full report in our next issue.

Another walk that proved to be a success last year is on its way to becoming an annual event. Sadie's Walk is held to promote diabetes awareness and how exercise and good eating will keep the illness under control. Sadie's Walk dates: Whapmagoostui (after Goose Break), April 7 in Chisasibi, April 9 in Wemindji, April 9 in Eastmain, May 9 (Mother's Day) in Waskaganish, April 16 in Nemaska, April 6 in Waswanipi, April 8 in O.J. and April 7 in Mistissini.

Lac Rocher find a dud?

Hopes were dashed for mining companies and shareholders when a massive nickel deposit at Lac Rocher north of Waswanipi turned out possibly to be a dud.

Share prices crashed 24 per cent for Nuinsco Resorces Ltd., the Toronto mining outfit that was conducting the exporation.

Months of hype about the discovery had seen Nuinsco shares climb to $3.26 in February. The company's find was touted as the finest nickel discovery since the Voisey's Bay deposit uncovered in 1994. But news came in March that the deposit may not be as rich as first thought.

The company says it will continue its $3.2-million drilling program.

Four in five Vancouver Native kids live in poverty

A staggering 79 per cent of Vancouver's Native children grow up in families with

continued on page 9

The National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation

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The Cree School Board wishes to express its sincerest congratulations to the Cree Nation Bears Bantam CC team for a very sucessful 1998-99 hockey season, finishing first in the inter-city Bantam CC League with a record 28-0-1. And also, in winning the Regional Championship in LaSarre on March 21, 1999.

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Good Luck in the Provincials, April 8-11, 1999!
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City of sin

The Canadian Connection
by Jean-Pierre Charbonneau
Optimum, Montreal: 1976

Montreal is well-known as a "city of sin," up there with places like Bangkok, Vegas and Desmaraisville ("village of sin"). How did Montreal get such a reputation? *The Canadian Connection* tells part of the story.

This is the definitive book on Canada's Mafia - which is dominated out of Montreal. The book's author, who today is Speaker of the National Assembly, had his kneecaps shot off in his newspaper office by a Mafia hitman in the 1970s.

He tells how Montreal's bad boys of crime imported a wack of freaky drugs from Turkey's opium fields, Lebanon's hash labs and Asia's Golden Triangle. With a corrupt cop in every Montreal doughnut shop, the drugs poured into the city, across the border to NYC and beyond.

New York mobsters like Carmine Gallente made a "killing" in Montreal. Gallente was a savage mob lord known to have wacked at least 80 people. His most famous hit was Carlo Tresca, an Italian anti-fascist journalist in New York who was killed in 1943. The hit was ordered by the head of the American mob, Salvatore "Lucky" Luciano, as a favour to Italian dictator Benito Mussolini.

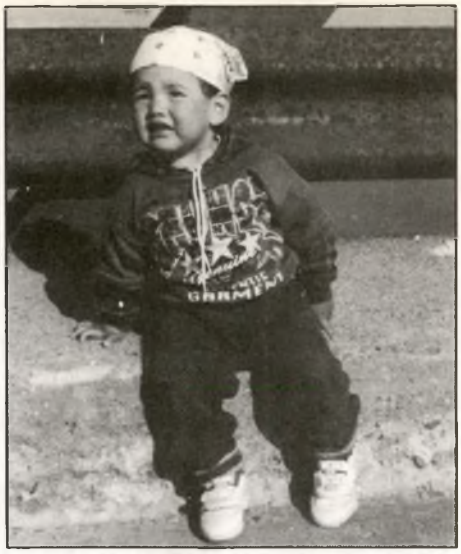
Gallente was partners with Montreal celebs like Max Shapiro, a feared mobster and drug-smuggler whose son, Bernard, today is the principal of McGill University...

Drugs were definitely Montreal's Klondike. In 1975, a shipment of 1,100 pounds of hash went for $15,000 in Beirut ($13.64 a pound) and sold in Montreal for $2.2 million ($2,040/pound).

The money tempted a lot of people - even the two heroes of *The Canadian Connection*, Montreal RCMP drug-squad officers Paul Sauvé and Claude Savoie, who later proved to be corrupt. Savoie, eventually put in charge of Montreal's RCMP drug squad, committed suicide in 1992 when he was discovered to be on the payroll of the West End gang, a major coke-smuggling outfit.

Sauvé also rose through the ranks, becoming a sergeant-major, but in 1980 he was arrested for stealing drugs from police storage and trying to sell them. He got five years in jail... Put that in your pipe and smoke it.

-BY ALEX ROSLIN



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incomes below the poverty line, according to a British Columbia coalition of community groups.

B.C. Campaign 2000 said in a report that 1,830 Native children, from infancy to age 14, struggle every day in the city for basic shelter, food and clothing essentials.

Campaign 2000 was formed in 1995 by community groups to monitor a federal commitment 10 years ago to eliminate child poverty by 2000.

RCMP sorry it shot dogs

The Mounties are talking about apologizing to the Inuit for shooting their sled dogs in the 1950s and 1960s.

"They just went up to them and it was 'bang, bang.' They didn't explain anything," said Lucassie Nutaraluk of Iqaluit in a newspaper report.

The RCMP is hoping to mend bridges with the Inuit as Nunavut comes into existence with a new justice system in the North. The RCMP's Nunavut detachment is crafting an official apology after Inuit Elders called for amends at a recent conference in Iqaluit. The RCMP is still trying to figure out why so many dogs were shot, said the newspaper.

Canada faces sanctions

Ecologists are trying to get the U.S. government to invoke trade sanctions against Canada over Ottawa's s failure to pass a law to protect endangered species.

After 25 years of having an endangered-species law south of the border, a U.S. wildlife coalition ran out of patience waiting for Canada to follow suit.

"Look Canada, you've got to get going," said Bill Snape of Defenders of Wildlife. "Now is truly the time, or the president of the United States will have the authority to impose trade sanctions upon you."

Canada promised to lead the world in protecting endangered species in 1992. A bill was introduced in 1997, but it died when a federal election was called.

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THE EXCLUDED

by Chloée Campero and Mary Ellen Davis

photo by Carlos Martinez Suárez

Marcelino Diaz de Jesus is a Nahua from the southern province of Guerrero in Mexico. He is one of the eight or nine million Aboriginal people who represent 9 per cent of the Mexican population: 59 ethnic groups who speak 92 languages.

Diaz's life has been tightly linked to the Native-rights movement for many years, in particular since 1992, five centuries after the so-called "Encounter of Two Worlds." "That wasn't an encounter, nor a conquest, and we would not celebrate on our people's spilled blood," he says.

Guerroro's Council of 500 Years of Indigenous Resistance was created to make their voice loud and clear. Its first action was to join the movement opposed to the building of a dam in San Juan Tetelcingo on the Balsas River, a project that would have resulted in the flooding of a valley where the Nahuas have lived for thousands of years. There were blockades and marches. A hundred intellectuals and environmental activists added their voices to the protest. The project was suspended.

Then the Zapatista National Liberation Army (EZLN) made its appearance in January 1994. The Mayan rebellion grew from within the Native communities of Chiapas. After a few days of combat, the Zapatistas silenced their guns and turned to the media and the Internet to spread their message inside and outside the country.

Since the EZLN's uprising, Diaz has seen the growth of a broad, plural and representative Mexican Aboriginal movement. The National Indigenous Congress (CNI) was created in 1996 and is gaining strength. Diaz is a spokesperson for this organization, and also one of the few Natives to be a member of the Mexican Congress ("diputado federal"). He ran as an independent candidate for the PRD (Partido de la Revolucion Democratica), a strong opposition party that questions the government from a left-wing perspective. The ruling party is the PRI (Partido Revolucionario Institucional), holding power uninterruptedly for 70 years.

One of the most important contributions of the Zapatista movement is to have put the debate on Native rights back into the national agenda. Since 1994, the Zapatistas have established a direct dialogue with indigenous organizations and Mexican society. The recognition of their demands by the people of Mexico and the world helped convince the government to meet with Zapatista leaders and search for a solution to the dramatic problems of Mexican indigenous populations. Talks started in March 1995 near San Cristobal de las Casas, involving the EZLN, government and mediating entities. The process resulted in the signing of the San Andres Agreements on Indigenous Culture and Rights in February 1996. However, the government did not move forward on the agreements, and soon the dialogue broke down.

photo by Mary Ellen Davis

Marcelino Diaz de Jesus

In a context of growing militarization and violence, the agree-

Photographer Carlos Martinez Suarez's 53-minute documentary video, "Cases of Violence Against Native Communities in Chiapas," with English subtitles, is available through Productions B'alba, tel & fax: (514) 270-7983 < medavis@sympatico.ca >

photo by Carlos Martinez Suárez

ments seemed far from coming true. The government argued that if they were enshrined in the Constitution, Native self-government – or as they say in Spanish, "autonomia" – would put into jeopardy the "integrality" of the country. Instead, the government focused on the need to "establish the rule of law" by sending even more troops to Chiapas and literally creating a state of siege.

Marcelino Diaz and many other Native leaders criticize the government for not keeping its word. "The Mexican government contradicts itself," he says. "It uses the agreements to speak about peace, but at the same time it steps up militarization. They follow the proverb: Repeat a lie 1,000 times and it will become the truth." Diaz asks: "Who has not fulfilled its promise in Mexico? The government, not the people. The government had given its word and had signed, but it does not respect its own commitment."

photo by Carlos Martinez Suárez

He explains, "I'm sure that Aboriginal people in Canada know how important the issue of land, of territory, is for us. The government here does not want to recognize our right to a territory, our right to be recognized as citizens who can decide for themselves, our right to practice our own traditional systems of justice in our territories, our right to speak our own language, our right to control our own media.

"All these rights are also written into Convention 169 of the International Labor Organization, signed by the Mexican government in 1991. As you can see, when I speak in my own language – Nahuatl – there is no translator here in Congress. I have to translate my own words after saying them. They tell me I'm not allowed to wear my hat, which is part of my traditional wear. Do I ask them to get rid of their ties?

"All Native lands are being militarized these days. I benefit of a special statute as a

Cont'd on page 13

U.S. BACKED GUATEMALAN GENOCIDE

America's CIA helped the Guatemalan army create a blood-thirsty killing machine that destroyed entire Mayan villages in the 1980s, according to declassified reports cited by The New York Times.

About 200,000 people were killed in the U.S.-supported genocide against the Mayan people, said the Times article. Mayans constitute the majority of Guatemala's population, but virtually all power in the country is controlled by a small handful of wealthy families.

The documents, obtained by the National Security Archive, a Washington research group, show how fanatically anti-communist U.S. covert operatives created a new type of warfare known as counter-insurgency in Guatemala.

In 1954, the CIA engineered a coup in Guatemala against a popular left-wing government and installed a brutal military dictatorship that it provided with millions in arms and training. Washington's counter-insurgency arsenal combined with the violence and racism of Guatemala's military to make "a horrifying brew" that lasted well after world communism had fallen, said the Times.

U.S. General James Doolittle advised President Dwight Eisenhower in 1954, "There are no rules in such a game. Hitherto acceptable norms of human conduct do not apply."

CIA officers compiled a hit list for the Guatemalan military of its opponents. CIA officers were present as Guatemalan intelligence – men responsible for death-squad killings – planned their covert ops, according to the Times. As far back as the 1960s, the CIA centralized command structures of the Guatemalan agencies that became involved in the worst killings of civilians.

CIA reports detailed secret executions of Community Party leaders by the Guatemalan government that Guatemalan officials publicly denied.

The CIA station in Guatemala City knew that the army was massacring entire Mayan villages while the U.S. Reagan Administration publicly supported the military regime's human-rights record. American intelligence also was aware and did nothing while Guatemala's army destroyed evidence

continued on page 12

continued from page 11

of torture centres and secret graveyards in 1994. "Not a word was uttered by the Clinton Administration," said the Times.

Like Animals in a Zoo

Matteo Pablo is a Guatemalan of Mayan ancestry, of the Chuj ethnic group. He left his country in 1982 after a massacre by the Guatemalan army in his village, Petanac. He lived in a refugee camp in Mexico for 14 years, before coming to Canada. He was interviewed for the newsletter of the Regroupment de solidarite avec les Autochtones (514-982-6606). Here is what he said:

"What I realize by living here (in Canada) is that Natives are treated everywhere the same. Like animals in a zoo, they are left outside of society. They are not taken into consideration. They are considered like second-class humans. But they are human beings and are entitled to respect and dignity. With understanding and respect, there would not have been uprisings.

"All of history is marked by the repression of the Indian peoples. Since the Conquest, the arrival of the Spaniards, the indigenous people were victims of massacres, in Latin American and in North America. It continues today. I am telling only about the Indians of Guatemala, but it is the history of all places where there are Indians.

"For example, in Guatemala, slavery is legalized. Indigenous manpower is paid a minimum wage, so that it can be said that there is no longer slavery. They earn only money to eat, but they cannot think about building a house. How is it possible that this has lasted for hundreds of years? This is unjust. The responsibility of other countries in these massacres must also be recognized. The United States which sells weapons to the army...

"It is reflection by society that is needed. We must also become conscious of the importance of the earth. It is the basis of everything. Once I was told that the basic problem with Natives was not the land, but an economic problem. How can one separate that?

"We must reflect on the problems of our societies by trying to look ahead, to think about the next generations so that it doesn't happen that everything explodes if everything is oriented towards wealth."

photo by Carlos Martinez Suárez

photo by Carlos Martinez Suárez

Cont'd from page 11

member of Congress, but this does not prevent police and soldiers from rifling through my car when I come across a blockade: Is it because I'm a Native? On the other hand, authorities did nothing to prevent the growth of paramilitary groups, linked to the ruling party, who keep attacking entire communities that sympathize with the EZLN."

Marcelino Diaz thinks that the massacre at Acteal, that left 45 dead in December 1997 – mostly women and children – is the result of the Federal Army's counter-insurgency strategy. However, it is almost impossible to convince judicial authorities to search for evidence that army members have been training civilians to use weapons against other civilians.

The San Andres Agreements that Diaz defends are the fruit of a unique experience in Mexican political history, pioneering a new form of participation and direct debate between Aboriginal organizations and with other citizens. While talks were being held between the EZLN and the government, the Zapatistas invited Native leaders from all over the country to discuss in a parallel forum the main issues addressed in San Andres. This process gave the final agreements a yet-unseen sense of legitimacy. It also gave birth to the National Indigenous Congress, mentioned earlier.

Today, the agreements still need to be translated into specific changes to the Constitutions of Mexico and the State of Chiapas. The government has written its own law reform proposal. The Zapatistas and their advisors have rejected it, arguing that it does not reflect the spirit of San Andres. After a long silence, the EZLN called Mexican society to participate in a "National Consultation for the Recognition of the Indigenous People's Rights and for the End of the Extermination War," which was held on Sunday, March 21. This day was also declared "International Day of the Excluded."

photo by Carlos Martinez Suárez

The "Consulta Nacional" was organized by 1,700 brigades involving 19,000 citizens in all of Mexico's 32 states. Months ago, the EZLN called on Mexican citizens to organize the citizen-run referendum in an effort to help put an end to the war and gain recognition for the Native peoples' rights.

The Zapatistas hoped Mexicans would vote in support of the Agreements of San Andres and the law reform proposal drawn up by COCOPA, a mediation group formed by members of Congress of various parties. Ballot boxes were installed all over the country to ask Mexicans about their opinion about the future of Native rights, about the need for demilitarization and democracy. Five thousand Zapatistas traveled to municipalities to promote dialogue in the spirit of peace. Marcelino Diaz de Jesus was one of the many Mexicans working on this important event, hoping that it will result in "peace with justice and dignity in Chiapas."

photo by Carlos Martinez Suárez

"As Native peoples," he said in Congress in 1998, "we are not bending down in front of history, we are not begging for our rights, and we are not requesting special privileges. We are only demanding what is legitimate: the full recognition of our rights as Native peoples, rights that have been denied for so many centuries."

Conseil Cri de la santé et des services sociaux de la Baie James
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Annie Bobbish,
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Fax: (819)855-2680

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DIRECTOR OF POST-SECONDARY AND ADULT OFF-COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

COMPETITION NUMBER : **MTL-882**
LOCATION OF WORK : **MONTREAL**

NATURE OF WORK :

Under the authority of the Director General, the position of Director of Post Secondary and Adult Off-Community Programs comprises the responsibility for the administration (planning, organization, administration, control and evaluation) of program and services.

CHARACTERISTIC FUNCTIONS;

- to administer, manage and evaluate the Post-Secondary and Adult Off-Community Programs of the Board;
- to promote post-secondary education;
- to screen the selection of applicants to the post-secondary and Adult Off-Community Programs of the Board and to submit a list of such applicants to the Council of Commissioners for approval;
- to participate in the formulation of objectives and policies of this program;
- to plan, organize and evaluate all aspects of the Post-Secondary and Adult Off-Community educational and professional counselling services;
- to perform any other related duties as assigned by the Director General.

MINIMUM REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS :

- Undergraduate degree in a relevant field of study;
- Eight years of relevant experience with at least three (3) years in a senior staff position;
- A personal and permanent teaching permit issued by Ministry of Education;
- Knowledge of the Cree language is a requirement.

EMPLOYMENT CONDITIONS :

Regular, full-time

BEGINNING OF EMPLOYMENT :

——— As soon as possible ———

SALARY :

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Maximum : $73,028.00

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DATE OF POSTING :
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END OF POSTING :
April 23, 1999

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The Crees Have Not Been Blackmailed On Health Services!

The Cree Trappers' Association, Cree Communities and the Grand Council/Cree Board of Health and Social Services have been in separate negotiations with Quebec for some time. The health negotiations were being conducted under a protocol agreed to with the Minister of Health in 1998. In February the negotiations were cut on community services by Minister Chevrette in a letter to Matthew Coon Come in which a dispute over forest issues was tied to community projects. In the case of the CTA and Health, it was representatives of Quebec who cut the negotiations, saying because of the forestry dispute, the talks were suspended.

Not so! In a response to a question in the National Assembly on March 23 Health Minister Pauline Marois stated: "We do not resort to that kind of blackmail."
Moreover, Minister Chevrette stated: "The suspension of negotiations between the Crees and the Secretariat involves the forestry only."

If the talks were not cut, they must still be on!

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GRAND COUNCIL OF THE CREES (EEYOU ASTCHEE)
GRAND CONSEIL DES CRIS (EEYOU ASTCHEE)

ᓀᐦᐃᔨᐤ ᑕᕋᑎᓕᓂ
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It was said that the old man had dragged his son's canoe to an island. He had placed it on an island. The old man must have been mad because his son didn't give one of his children to him. This was what the people blamed it on. It was an awful thing what had happened to those children that starved to death. Even though there was no scarcity of food at that time, those children died. No one knew what happened to the man. Others thought that maybe he was trying to get his canoe that was on the island. If it was true what was said, maybe that was how he died. The man's children were there at the camp but no one knew what had happened to that man. He wasn't seen at the inland trading post. His little children had died of starvation. When the people came back down the river, that was when we knew what had happened to those children. But no one knew what had happened to that man.

The people who found the teepee noticed the children's trail. It seemed that they were checking on something for some time. I guess they couldn't move after a while because of no food. They probably waited for their father. The children were all found lying together.

It was hard for the people to take when this happened. There was no scarcity of game during this time. Game was plentiful and people were living well. Many people were surprised that this had happened. Many people thought that they should have check up on them earlier but it was after over a month when the people decided to look for the missing family. There were no planes or helicopters at that time to aid in the search.

I guess many people didn't hear this story correctly because they were born after it happened. So, when they hear this story, they might be surprised of what happened. When the people went there to check on those missing people, a lot of supplies were taken along expecting to catch the children in time. But I guess they thought that they wouldn't be able to get to them in time, even if they were found.

This is the story that I thought should be recorded — when the people went missing here from Eastmain. When the man was about to leave his father's camp, his father asked for one of his grandchildren to stay with him but the man didn't agree. This was the last time the man saw his father's face. When some people have bad thoughts towards each other, it was known that something bad would happen. During that time when it happened, it was difficult for us to take. It was a bit frightening when this happened. This is what I remember. I was already full-grown when this happened. I knew that there was no scarcity of food during that time of this event.

This is why I thought that I'd tell this story because many people, who were born after this happened, will know. It seemed that the search was carried out half heartedly. The people checked up on the missing people after there was no sign of life. Many people have been born after this event and if they want to take this story, the younger generation will clearly know of what happened.

Translated and transcribed by Brian Webb. Voices of the Elders: made possible with the assistance of the Canada Council.

the Nation

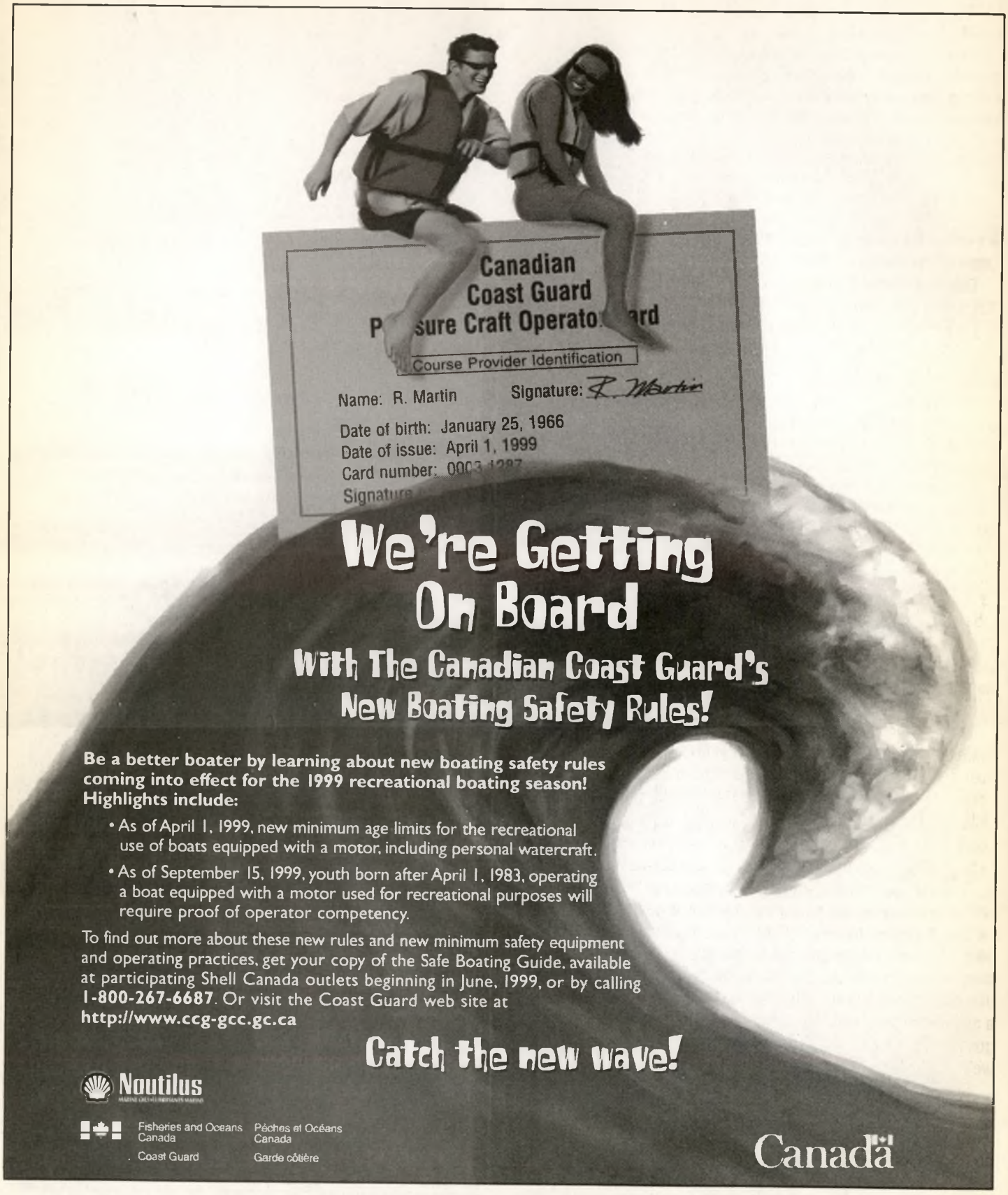
Win a weekend getaway!

Mother's Day is that one special day each year when we all take time to honour the special women in our lives. As we have in past years, The Nation will be preparing a special issue on May 7, 1999 to acknowledge the important role played by Cree mothers.

Write and tell us why your mother, your grandmother, your wife, your girlfriend, or another important woman in your life deserves to be the mother of the year.

(please include your name and phone number)

One lucky entrant will win a weekend getaway for two.



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Be a better boater by learning about new boating safety rules coming into effect for the 1999 recreational boating season! Highlights include:

- As of April 1, 1999, new minimum age limits for the recreational use of boats equipped with a motor, including personal watercraft.
- As of September 15, 1999, youth born after April 1, 1983, operating a boat equipped with a motor used for recreational purposes will require proof of operator competency.

To find out more about these new rules and new minimum safety equipment and operating practices, get your copy of the Safe Boating Guide, available at participating Shell Canada outlets beginning in June, 1999, or by calling **1-800-267-6687**. Or visit the Coast Guard web site at **http://www.ccg-gcc.gc.ca**

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continued from page 6

been approximately 15 accidents in the past year right here in the community of Waskaganish.

To help cut down on accidents, more workers should be employed to fix up the roads during the winter-time. In addition, people need to drive with caution and respect the speed limits, as well as always remember to wear their seat belts. Not only is it the law, but it is for the safety of everyone.

Thank you very much for your understanding.

L. Moore, Waskaganish

Separate this

Letter to *The Nation*:

Dear Chief Coon Come and C.H.S. in a Cree community,

I read your letter in the November 6 issue and agreed with most of your points. Yes, the phone, the cable, the hydro, groceries, etc. are all outrageously high. I agree that the Cree Territory should be separated from Quebec VERY much. I most certainly agree Quebecois treat A LOT of people like imbeciles. So why don't we cut ourselves from Quebec entirely. We don't buy a thing from them. They don't buy ANYTHING ELSE from us. All of our resources could be from Ontario and Manitoba. Better yet, why don't we join Manitoba? Ontario is already too big and populated. We would create jobs for all Natives there in Manitoba and here. Think about it. New jobs. Definitely a growing airline, a new boat line. Benefits, benefits and benefits. Anyone from Quebec would just be visiting, a tourist. Money from tourists. See the pattern.

Skip colleges in Quebec. There are many more colleges in Ontario and Manitoba combined to train for new jobs and new businesses that could be created. Colleges in Quebec profit from fees. Instead, imagine if we joined Manitoba (or Ontario). Great skills and talents to be learned. For the great many new jobs we could make in our own province. We get wealthier and Manitoba gets wealthier. Communities get larger, more businesses.

Now that I've said my #1 point, I have to regretfully say this. The only way we can accomplish great things is if we all work together on this. Excluding the Grand Chief, I have seen chiefs and councils all in it for their own benefit, not the people, not the community - themselves. We, the people, have to see this. We also have to see that good people are not being hired because they would rather hire a member of the family who takes one-hour breaks, sits around gossiping and treats half-Crees (like myself) and non-Natives like we're imbeciles.

Some Crees are just as racist to English as the Quebecois are. A lot of us want to make a change and a difference just as you, but with people like above how do we do it? I guess we can all keep dreaming for the best until we can all work together as a team. For those of you who do work as a team, best of luck. I hope you can make a difference where people like myself can't

I'll remain anonymous

Wachiya

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BEARS CROWNED CHAMPIONS

EN ROUTE TO CHRYSLER CUP

They did it!!! Big time!!! Our Bears, our Cree Nation Bears, proved that they could do it!!!

I've talked to Steve "Vieux Bonhomme" Cheechoo and here's what he has to say about his boys and the game of hockey he feels so strong about.

"The Cree Nation Bears finished their 28-game season with a record of 27 wins, zero losses and one tie (27-0-1). This is certain lay a record to be proud of!!!

"In only their second year in competitive hockey, they have proven to their fans, supporters, as well as the inter-city league that they are able to rise above all obstacles in order to compete at a higher calibre of hockey.

"Although there have been many opponents and critics of this program, we have demonstrated in a relatively short period of time that our program has developed and that it is effective. We have been able to to produce the first-ever Cree team to win a regional championship!!!

"Our hope is that in the future the opportunities for the players will continue. We know the potential is there to celebrate many more championship victories.

"As each of the last two seasons has passed we have tried to improve our relationship with our sponsors, fans and schools. We did this in order to improve not only our program but our communities as well. We truly hope and wish that this effort will continue in the future.

"In order for this great sport of hockey to continue to grow and developed, as well as produce athletes to represent our nation, all people with an interest in the sport need to them their voices and hands. They need to do this by becoming involved locally, as well as regionally."

Here's some comments from a proud mother of a Bear who shared a precious moment with her son in LaSarre, where the regional tournament was help.

"We were all screaming. We could not sit still. We could not say a word at the end, as we lost our voices. It was such an excitement to share among the Bears fans. Especially the last two games. My son was injured, his hip was swollen, and we told him, son! It's up to you to decide if your physical pain doesn't allow you to continue. But he went on and with his age and desire which acted as medicine to his pain and going... The semi-finals score was 2-0... And the finals as the Bears went onto win 8-0!!! That was too much... The delivery of the championship topped it all!!!"

As an emotional mother her last words went straight from the heart addressed to the Bears, "Thank you a whole lot Bears... We love you!"

So our Cree Nation Bears will be representing the Abitibi-Témiscamingue region at the provincials to compete for what every hockey organization of every region of Quebec call the Stanley Cup of minor hockey in Quebec!!! This year it will be held in Riviere Du Loup, April 8 to 11. They will compete against the best Bantam CC team of each region.

And don't forget: they will be in the same spirits as our girls: Jewill Matoush, Helen Gunner and Tiffany Neeposh representing Abitibi in girls' hockey category for the Chrysler Cup!!!

Good luck Bears... Good luck girls. We're with you in our thoughts!!! And I have to let you know that there is a woman behind our boys... Her name is Darlene Cheechoo.. Her support for these boys was unconditional!!! She deserves a lot of gratitude for her faith in each one of the Bears.

That's hockey for now...

TOURNAMENT STATS

Game 1 Bears 5 Rouyn 2
Game 2 Bears 11 Malartic 8
Game 3 (SF) Bears 2 Ste. Germaine 0
Game 4 (Finals) Bears 8 Ville Marie 1
Final game:
David Neeposh, three goals
Leonard Small, one goal
Travis Grant, one goal
Randy Weistche, one goal
Jeremy Jolly-Gull, one goal
Christopher Swallow, one goal
In net: Byron Sam

Dolores Audet - Washipabano

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101-BIRTHDAYS

April Moar is celebrating her birthday on April 5th. Take the time to enjoy your birthday because you deserve it. You worked so hard trying to take care of your son while in school. I'm so proud of you. You've grown to be an independent young women and you don't know how much it means to see you working so hard for your son. Even though I'm not there to help you're doing this by yourself, I'm always thinking of you . Please accept this birthday wish and all my love. Kisses to you and happy birthday to your daughter. From Mom

Happy 1st birthday to Franklin Bert Jordan Moar on Apr 21st. I hope you know how special you are. You may not see me all the time but you must know and feel just how much I love you. You came into this world when I was feeling down and lost. If only you knew how much more love filled our hearts when you were born. I always wondered why my mother did all the thing she did for grandchildren. Now I know why and how she felt when she did things for your mom, uncles and aunts. You are such a bundle of joy and love to have in your family. I am proud to have such a wonderful, cute, lovable and chubby grandson. Happy birthday and many, many, many more to come. P.S. save some of your birthday cake for me. See you soon chubbs. Love and kisses from Grandma Janie.

Birthday greetings going out to my children. Kenneth on Apr 19, Sheldon on Apr 23, and Katherine on Apr 30. Happy birthday and many more to come. Love, Mom.

Happy birthday to my brother Douglas on Apr 7th (imagine, my baby brother, already a Grandpa!) I know you'll make a great Grandpa. Enjoy your day! Gloria.

We would like to wish our Princess Greta a happy 14th birthday on April 5. So how's that journey through 19 years going? Bet you it's fun and adventurous, ay? Don't get too rowdy and take care of yourself. We wouldn't want you to ruin that beautiful face of yours. Once again, happy birthday and we love you and care for you. Love, your auntie and Craig

Happy 1st birthday to Ryanne June Trapper on Mar. 18 and many more to come. We love you very much. From Mom, dad, sis Patricia and your two brothers, Ryan and Patrick.

A happy birthday to a very special friend in Waswanipi, on Apr. 7, 1999. Hey! Cat, look added this way, you're not getting older, you're getting wiser. All the best, and may all your dreams come true. Your friend always, George in Lochine.

I would like to wish my babes, Batman & Robin, Craig Neacappo a happy 5th birthday on April 12. Another Batman birthday party for you son, just like last year and the year before. Doesn't matter because your my Batman and you deserve the kind of party you ask for. Happy birthday and many more. I love with all my heart. Love, Mama.

Happy birthday to my granny Janie Bearskin on April 5, 99. Have a wonderful birthday and happy Easter. With lots of love, Sebastien Coon-Come.

Happy belated 78th to Louisa Diamond Sr. of Waskaganish on Mar 29. Neil.

Happy birthday to a special sister/aunt Ella Loon on March 25. Happy?? Birthday. Watch your cake carefully, boy (Tristin) might eat it all. From all of us at 95 Pine. Waswanipi

Happy birthday to a very special person in our lives, our mother Donna Georgekish. She will be celebrating her birthday on Apr. 15. We love you even though we don't say it often and we're proud to have the mother like you. Once again, happy birthday Mom. All our love, Mindy, Beverly, Bradley, Sherry, Wendy and Kelly in Waskaganish.

Happy birthday to our sister Wendy Georgekish on Apr. 10. Have fun on your birthday. We love you! From Mindy, Beverly, Bradley, Sherry and Kelly in Waskaganish.

I would like to send an early birthday wish to my brother Harold S. M. Jolly who will be celebrating his 17 Birthday on Apr. 20th, 99. I love you very much. Don't do anything bad before your birthday or else you'll stay home all day on your birthday. Grounded. Make sure you go wild on your birthday. I'll give you a bottle on your birthday. (Joke) anyways have fun. From someone who adores you a lot. Waskaganish.

Belated birthday greetings going out to a special girl Kelsie Angel Mariah Sasheguin Jolly Ottereyes. Daughter of Sabrina Jolly and John Ottereyes. Sorry it's late but at least I didn't forget your birthday. Happy belated first birthday on Feb. 7 1999. It seems like just yesterday when Mommy and Daddy brought you home. How time flies. I'll always love you and always be there for you little girl. I love you very much even though I don't see you very often. You're the littlest person that I will always love. Love always, someone in Waskaganish.

Happy belated birthday to Charmaine and Willis Weistche in Nemaska on March 13 and 29. We love you and miss you both. From Joomshoom and

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Googoo in Waskaganish xoxoxox

A birthday message to a special friend and daughter Tiffany Neeposh on Apr 5. A message to keep in mind, my friend as we remember your birthday. We become strong women of God when we offer him our cups of weakness and ask him in all humility to fill it with his strength. What an incredible thought. The power that runs the universe is available to us if we are humble enough to accept. Also remember to hide under the shadow of the almighty through this life's storms. Have a blessed birthday and trust the Lord for the things not within your grasp yet. From friend always, Mom

Happy first birthday to my two wonderful nephews. Jonah Matt on Mar 23 and Tyson Iserhoff on Mar 27. I love you both with all of my heart. If you boys run out of sausages, just call me. Love always your aunt Nannie.

A birthday wish to my one and only granddaughter Laurie Ann Mary Jane Neeposh on Apr 7. I can only say, for what I am receiving and have received-pain as well as joy in loving you—only asked to be taught the secret of giving thanks for a little Laurie Ann like you. And for what have already received-what has shaped my life in the past and what is shaping me today— I can only say please fill my cup with thankfulness for such a joy in knowing, caring and loving you little Laurie Ann. Before I sign off let's tell them why such a long name for such a tiny girl. It's all the three late Grandmas and Annies put together eh? Now let's celebrate your first birthday and have a wonderful time. Love, Grandma Anna.

A special little boy will be celebrating his second birthday on Apr 9. This goes out to my precious son Josaiah Evan Saachiinipin Petawabano. Your cute little voice gives us so much joy in the house and those cute little fingerprints on the walls. Have a happy birthday. Hugs and kisses, Mom.

Happy 1st birthday to a little guy named Sammy Lee Ray Diamond on Apr 5 1999. We love you so much. From Mommy, Daddy and your big brother Cody.

Happy belated birthday to the most wonderful, loving, caring husband (Daddy). To Michel, his birthday was on Feb. 13, 1999. We hope you enjoyed your special day, a special as you are. Once again, happy birthday and many more to come. With love, from your wife and your son.

March 23, 1999 is a very special day for our family because this is the day when Archie Moar Jr. was born. I would like to take this time to wish

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our son, Archie, all the best on his birthday. Please don't ever forget how much we love you. Even though you think we are punishing you sometimes, when me and your dad do not grant your requests or wishes. We are only trying to do what is best for you. The creator gave us a son to raise the best way possible, by giving you love and understanding. This is exactly what we are trying to do. Anyways, have a great birthday and we love you with all our hearts. From Mom and Dad.

Happy Birthday Greetings going out to some very special people that I Love Very Much. To my Auntie Debbie on Mar 26, to my Grandpa Allan on Apr 5th in Moose Factory. To my Uncle Aaron on Apr 9th in Sudbury. Also to my cute Little Cousin Karissa who's celebrating her First Birthday on Apr 13th also in Moose Factory. Hugs & Kisses to you all, and I'll see you again very soon. Love, Drayden. (P.S.) Hi Granny, I Love & Miss You Too!

Happy belated birthday wish to my sister; Brenda Rose W.J. from Nemaska on Mar 23. I may be just a bit late but it's not too late to let you know how much you mean to me. In case you didn't already know I really love and care for you and I hope you the best life has to offer. P.S. Take care those little angels you have!(Val & Pat) Another Birthday wish going out to my father; Matthew W. on Apr 4, I love you dad! Oh yeah, to my sister Laura; I wanna wish you a Happy 17th Birthday on Apr 18. The year's gone by fast eh? One last term of high school to overcome, I'm so proud of you and John Paul. And last but certainly not the least to my close friend April Trapper; I thank you for always being there to listen to me and I wish you a Happy Birthday on Apr 15.Love you all always; Celina W.(Nem)

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Happy 24th anniversary to my parents, Paul and Elizabeth I. on Apr 4. May your lives be blessed with many years together. I love you both. Love always, your daughter Nannie.

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Acknowledgement: Thank you Little Bird for your patience! Little Bird illustrated "Chief" William Nichols in the last issue of the Nation. Little Bird is_____.

Alright to our champs Wemindji Wolverines. Congratulations. A job well done. March 11-14, 1999, Chisasibi Sr. Broomball and hockey Tournament. And good luck on your next! From your fans.

Are alcohol and drugs destroying your life? Do you want to help yourself? Maybe we can help. We are Alcoholics Anonymous. We meet in Mistissini on Saturday evenings, 8 p.m. in the basement of St. John's Anglican Church.

Hello to my friend in Hull Lorrianne K. and to Lucy N.. Happy Mother's Day. I forgot last year from P. Coon Come. P.S. Lucy, are you happy now? Lorraine, take care. Don't party too much.

Since I am a year old now, I would like to say the special thank you to Hannah Blacksmith & to the other educators of the day-care center of Waswanipi. Thanks for being there for me when my mom and dad worked. Keep up the good work ladies! From Ryanne

Hi My name's Laure I'm French & I'm 18. I'm crazy about Native culture and I'm looking for an e-pal or pen pal. Please help me !! Thanks Laure. laure@oflandre.easynetbox.net

Félicitations à Pierre Paquet et Nathalie Tousignant qui depuis hier soir, jeudi le 25 mars à 22h49, sont les heureux parents d'une jolie petite fille de 6 livres et 10 onces prénommée Fanni. Toute la petite famille se porte bien.

Sarah Blacksmith in Sudbury, hey there! How's college life? When are you planning to visit OJ again? I hope I see you again sometime... Write to me! From me... Boomerang61KO8 (shhhhh!) To

Happy christening to my niece Tatiana Faith Wabagoun Kanatewat daughter of Claudine K.. And Allen Matoush and to my nephew Matthew Raymond Emerson Kanatewat son of Clara and Raymond K. on Jan 10th 1999. Yeah, Claudine and Raymond, Take good care of my niece and nephew while I'm gone for 4 or 5 months. I hope you take every month a photo so I can see how they're growing. I love you all. Love, sister Lorraine K..

Hi to our bud Melissa Snowboy. When are you coming to Chisasibi. Don't you miss us? We miss you a lot. Call us? PS Larry, hi! Bye! Take care! From your buddies who really miss you. Lucie and Jennifer.

Hello to my best friend Martha Mark. (Eastmain) I could never explain how grateful I am to have you for a friend. Just know that I'm always there with a sympathetic ear, and encouraging word and an understanding heart. May it give you a feeling of peace and knowing that you count on me just as I count on you makes our friendship one of the most valuable gifts I've ever been given and I wouldn't trade it for anything else. I know we didn't see each other over the holidays but I'll make it up to you someday. I can't say when but somehow I will. I'm sorry for all those times I couldn't be there for you when you needed me most during the hard times when you lost loved ones these past few months. You were in my thoughts and prayers. I'm sure you understand. I treasure our friendship and I love you my friend, my cousin. From friend always, Emma Moses-Katapatuk. P.S. May our friendship never end. (Waskaganish)

A big thank you to all our sponsors from the Mistissini Atoms (Team 1) Cree School Board-Mr. Gordon Blackned, Denise Restaurant- Mrs. Laurie Chakapash, Maamuu Mistissini Attauwaaukamikw- Mr. Doug Field, Mist-Terr & Mistco Ventures- Mr. Norman Petawabano, Mwaak Renovations- Mr. Allan Loon, Cree Trappers-Mr. Henry Mianscum, Native Explorations- Mr. Sam Bosum, Quick Stop Cafeteria- Madeleine & Raymond Nakogee, Cree Construction Company- Mr. Steven Bearskin, Centre 2 MRC (Western)- M, Chibougamau. You have made it possible for us to wear our new sets of sweaters at the CNIT Tournament in Vald'Or. For your information, we won the silver "Most Disciplined Team" in the competitive category and won in the silver medal game. Again, thank you very much.

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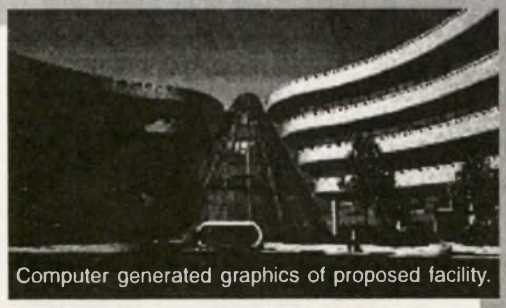

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